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NOTE ON THE POSITION OF NOVA AQUILAE.

Mr. Tucker has kindly handed to me the following note on the position of *Nova Aquilae*:

"Meridan Circle. *Nova Aquilae*. Mean place 1918.0. From eight observations, four clamp west and four east: between June 10 and July 18, inclusive.

Epoch 1918.495; R. A. $18^h44^m43^s.511$ ($\pm 0^s.007$); Decl. $+0^\circ29'30''.19$ ($\pm 0''.14$). Fundamental star places from the *American Ephemeris*."

Micrometer measures with the 36-inch telescope were made on June 11, 1918, connecting *Nova Aquilae* with the 8.5 magnitude star A. G. Nicolajew 4685. These gave for the position of the Nova for 1918.0, R. A. $=18^h44^m43^s.51$; Decl. $=+0^\circ29'30''.9$.

The close agreement of this result with Mr. Tucker's very accurate meridian circle measures is of interest, for it exceeds that to be expected from the probable error of the average A. G. Catalog star place.

It may be added that on this and on later nights a sharp red image of the Nova could be formed by drawing the telescope tube out well beyond the normal stellar focus. Doubtless this image was due to the hydrogen $H\alpha$ emanation which was already very strong.

July, 1918.

R. G. AITKEN.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSES OF THE NEAR FUTURE

The total solar eclipse of May 29, 1919, will no doubt attract several observers if the international conditions are not too serious. The shadow path will cross centrally over South America, the Atlantic Ocean, and Africa. The total phase will begin at sunrise off the coast of Northern Chile at longitude $+75^\circ\text{W}$ and latitude 20°S . It will pass over Tacna in Chile, La Paz in Bolivia, over Brazil, and emerge from South America at longitude 39°W , latitude 3°S . It will pass over the St. Paul Rocks a few hundred miles north-east of the coast of Brazil, over Princes Island near the Congo coast of Africa, enter the African coast in longitude 9°E , latitude 1°N , and terminate at sunset at a point between the north end of Madagascar and the mainland of Africa. The eclipse duration is of unusual length. The total phase will last 6 minutes 50 seconds in the mid-Atlantic Ocean. The duration on the coast of Brazil is

about 5 minutes 25 seconds, and on the west coast of Africa about 5 minutes 8 seconds. I have seen no data as to prevailing weather conditions along the line of totality, but they are probably unpromising except in Chile and Bolivia; and there, unfortunately, the eclipse occurs so soon after sunrise, that results of great value could scarcely be expected. The Lick Observatory will not plan to observe this eclipse.

The total solar eclipse of October 1, 1921, will occur in the antarctic regions of the Earth, and it can scarcely be called observable.

In the total solar eclipse of September 21, 1922, the shadow will cross the Indian Ocean, the northern part of Australia, and thence proceed easterly a short distance into the Pacific Ocean. It would seem that fairly promising weather conditions may be found in Australia.

The total solar eclipse of September 10, 1923, should find good observing conditions. No doubt it will be extensively observed if political conditions are fairly well settled. Oppolzer's eclipse charts have the shadow entering the United States at about the center of the Californian coast line and thence proceeding southeasterly, but this is probably an error due to the imperfect method used in charting the eclipse paths. Professor Todd has computed the eclipse path (*Popular Astronomy*, 21, 352, 1913), and he finds that the central line of totality will enter the west coast of the peninsula of Lower California at latitude about 32° N, will pass close to Zacatecas, and will enter the Gulf of Mexico a short distance south of Tampico. The duration in Central Mexico will be nearly four minutes. The central line of the shadow, according to Professor Todd's computations, will lie six or eight miles southwest of San Nicolas Island, which is situated about one hundred miles southwest of Los Angeles. This island is possibly four by eight miles in size. Its September climate is probably excellent, but the transport and living problems might be difficult. The observing conditions at many points along the line in Mexico should be fine.

The solar eclipse of January 24, 1925, will be total in the northeastern part of the United States. It will occur in the early forenoon. To the best of my knowledge, the detailed computations have not been made. The exact localities to be visited by the shadow are not yet known.

W. W. CAMPBELL.